

April 19th, 2005

Dear Chelsea District Eight Resident:

Today marks a significant milestone in the efforts of The City of Chelsea to clean up the air we all breathe and to eliminate nuisance petroleum odors.

This evening the Board of Health unanimously voting in favor of updating the city's number 6 bulk fuel oil storage regulations with requirements for facilities that store this product or a blend of this product to install and maintain an on-site odor control system. The Board also passed a resolution specific to the ongoing odor situation at 11 Broadway (Global Petroleum/Chelsea Sandwich Terminal). This resolution authorizes the voluntary installation of a state of the art odor control system for both the bulk storage and loading facilities at 11 Broadway.

The installation of this system at this location is being done under voluntary agreement between the City of Chelsea and Global Petroleum/Chelsea Sandwich

What does this mean to you?

Heavy oil odors in The Waterfront and Admirals Hill area from the 11 Broadway location will be reduced by a minimum of 75% as soon as this odor control and containment system is operational. Installation of this system is expected to begin immediately, with an estimated 10-15 week completion date.

In fact the city of Chelsea retained the services of an environmental consultant who reviewed the system and verified its effectiveness in our neighborhood on our oil odor issues. This system is a significant capital investment by Global Petroleum/Chelsea Sandwich Terminal and is representative of the most modern technology available for odor control on the market today. There are several locations worldwide where this cutting edge technology has been used to eliminate petroleum based odors.

This is just the beginning

As part of the city's overall effort to clean up the air we breath and eliminate nuisance odors, this is just the first of many improvements that will be made as a result of the city's odor study that is due to be completed shortly. When released the odor study will scientifically identify the sources of dangerous and nuisance odors, the city will then work down the list and request offenders to voluntarily comply with existing regulations, voluntarily address nuisance odors, take enforcement actions, and update our regulations for the source of such odors.

The city plans to use the lessons learned from the 11 Broadway situation and use them as a template to quickly and efficiently address other identified odor issues. There are some odor issues that do not originate in Chelsea but affect us, therefore the city has no direct authority to regulate or enforce such. Once scientifically identified, I plan to advocate on behalf of the city on these issues with the appropriate businesses, state and federal representatives to reduce these odors as well.

I am confident that the odor control system that is being installed at 11 Broadway will bring a significant reduction of heavy petroleum based odors and bring residents of this district a better quality of life. I thank our neighbors at Global Petroleum/Chelsea Sandwich for voluntarily installing this system and I look forward to working with them as good neighbors to address other issues.

I would like to Thank all of the members of our City government and Global Petroleum/Chelsea Sandwich who worked tirelessly on this issue, and Bob Bowker our environmental odor consultant. Special thanks to the members of The Board of Health and former District 8 City Councilor Rochelle Bennett for her hard work and dedication on this issue.

I will provide further information at the upcoming District 8 Community meeting on May 2nd and through subsequent email updates.
Enjoy the air.

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THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

CHELSEA

The Boston Globe

City OK's odor eater ordinance

New rules to reduce industrial smells

By Kathleen Conti, Globe Staff | April 24, 2005

Chelsea officials say a new agreement with an oil storage company to regulate its strong petroleum odors has given them an influential tool for future negotiations with other companies.

District 8 City Councilor Ron D. Morgese, whose area includes the waterfront, called the willingness of Chelsea Sandwich LLC/Global Petroleum Corporation to sign a resolution agreeing to reduce its odors a "significant milestone."

Hours after a Board of Health meeting last week, at which the agreement was finalized, he said in an e-mail to district residents that a vapor recovery system "will bring a significant reduction of heavy petroleum-based odors and bring residents of this district a better quality of life."

After months of meetings, Chelsea Sandwich representatives signed a resolution last Tuesday to install a state-of-the-art vapor recovery system, allowing them to reduce the heavy petroleum smell that wafts over the region by 75 percent, said Board of Health member Joel Kowalsczyk.

The Board of Health also voted unanimously for a regulation that would require any local facility storing Number 6 grade oil, or any blend of that oil, in bulk to install and maintain an on-site odor control system. Number 6 oil is considered among the most malodorous.

The requirement, said Kowalsczyk, is a major step forward in the way local officials can regulate odors that are considered a nuisance -- too insignificant to harm the environment and beneath the scope of major regulatory departments, such as the US Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Protection.

"What the position of the board was and is is that there are other industries other than Global that are constituting an odor nuisance," Kowalsczyk said. "What the precedent was was that we went from industries regulated by the DEP and the EPA to a more local nuisance regulation."

As a bulk storage facility of several types of fuel oils, including Number 6 oil, Chelsea Sandwich, 11 Broadway, reportedly emitted the strongest nuisance odor in the city's Waterfront District, Kowalsczyk said.

"This is the accumulation of years of blame, fighting, and moving in that direction. And then discussions, and most recently, healthy discussions," Morgese said. "Yes, it's taken a long time, but we've done it the right way this time. We did studies and brought experts and I'm confident we did due diligence for the residents."

Morgese said Chelsea Sandwich representatives plan to begin installing the vapor recovery system right away. Kowalsczyk said the installation may cost the company between \$500,000 to \$1 million. Representatives for Global Petroleum Corporation could not be reached for comment.

In the process of determining the specific odor impact from Chelsea Sandwich, the city and the company split the cost of hiring odor expert Robert P.G. Bowker, whose final report on all the odors plaguing the waterfront area is expected at the next Board of Health meeting scheduled for May 17. In his draft report, Bowker made a list of some of the area's worst odor offenders.

Morgese said city officials hope to go down the final list provided by Bowker, using the same approach they

did with Chelsea Sandwich, and will update the city's new nuisance odor regulation as they go along.

"There's probably going to be another odor that we'll have to start addressing because the petroleum [smell] was covering it up," Morgese said.

Kowalsczyk said other local companies have taken notice of Chelsea Sandwich's willingness to be proactive about its nuisance odor, and at least one, the General Mills-owned Pillsbury manufacturing facility, has already approached the board, saying they want to sit down and talk.

"It's a heavy bread smell, but they want to do some things," Kowalsczyk said. "They don't have to do anything at this time, but they're showing they have a vested interest in Chelsea and that they want to work with us."

But it's not the smell of bread that bothers most waterfront residents, who, as the days get warmer are bombarded with odors ranging from rawhide to sewage, Kowalsczyk said.

Among the olfactory offenders on the list are Boston Hides and Furs, Kowalsczyk said. "They receive rawhides and treat the exterior of the hide with chemicals. And during the hot days the hides are just sitting there, creating a decomposing smell," he said.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority facilities known as Chelsea Headworks on Marginal Street reportedly emit a sewage smell, Kowalsczyk said. The MWRA-operated Chelsea sewage system on Marginal and Arlington streets is also noted as a culprit, as is the Island End River that used to be a coal-tar processing facility. Kowalsczyk said there is sediment accumulated there, in addition to sewage discharge.

The city of Everett also is cited in the report for the odor that seeps to Chelsea from an oil storage facility in Everett's industrial district, Kowalsczyk said. He said he would like to form an alliance with the Board of Health there to work on the issue.

"That's the next piece of this puzzle in our long-term five-year plan here. Now we can get a nuisance odor regulation in place to deal with it," Kowalsczyk said. "The city does have some zoning ordinances . . . [but] there's really no teeth in it. We're giving it teeth."

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